

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine April, May & June 2005



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Presentation of
Flowers to
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State House



USDA NRCS
Celebrates 70 Years

South Carolina
Peaches are Tastier

Photo courtesy of
Martin Eubanks,
SC Department of Agriculture



SC FFA Members Attend State
Agri-Tourism Conference

"Taste of South Carolina"
Legislative Expo



Spartanburg
Technical College
Hosts Horticulture
Equipment Fair



John W. Parris
State Director,
Office of Public Affairs
Editor

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April, May & June 2005

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From left, Thurmond FFA team members **Russell Henderson, Bettis Rainsford, Aaron Ingle, Richard Miller and Drew Cheatham** with team coach and FFA Advisor **Hugh Bland**.

Thurmond FFA Team Takes Top Honors in State Envirothon

The Strom Thurmond Technology Center FFA Team took first-place honors at the ninth annual South Carolina Envirothon, held at Clemson University's Sandhill Research and Education Center near Columbia, S.C., on Friday, May 6.

Team members Russell Henderson, Bettis Rainsford, Aaron Ingle, Richard Miller and Drew Cheatham were each presented a medallion and a \$500 college scholarship. Team coach Hugh Bland, agricultural education teacher and FFA Advisor at the center, received a \$500 cash award.

In addition to the scholarships, team members and their advisor were awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to represent South Carolina in the International Cannon-sponsored Envirothon, scheduled for July 18-24 at Southwest Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo.

The Thurmond FFA Team also placed first in the SC FFA Division of the Envirothon. The Calhoun Falls FFA Team placed second, and the Laurens FFA Team placed third.

The Calhoun Falls Team will represent the SC FFA at the National FFA Convention in October and will compete in the Natural Resource and Environmental Science Career Development Event Finals.

The major categories of the Envirothon competition were aquatics, cultural landscapes, forestry, soils, wildlife and oral presentation.

The State Envirothon is coordinated by a committee of representatives from the SC Department of Natural Resources, the SC Association of Conservation Districts, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, the SC Department of Education, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the SC Commission of Forestry and Clemson University's Cooperative Extension Service.



From left, Calhoun Falls team members **Lakyn Black, Pat Shea, Rachel Brandt, William Collins, Cody Brown and Noah Johnson** with team coach **Calvert Sherard**.

National FFA Vice President Visits South Carolina

National FFA President Brian H. Hogue of Wilcox, Ariz., toured South Carolina April 19-22, 2005 and visited FFA chapters, agricultural businesses, government officials and a golf course.

He arrived in Columbia, S.C., on April 19 and traveled with Keith Cox, State FFA Executive Secretary, to Belton-Honea Path High School, where he conducted a leadership training session for FFA officers from a number of Upstate schools.

On Wednesday, April 20, Hogue, who was joined in Columbia by some State FFA Officers, received a royal welcome to the S.C. General Assembly from Representative Ronnie Townsend, chairman of the House Education Committee; Representative Billy Witherspoon, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; Representative Marty Coates, a former National FFA Officer; and State Senator Larry Grooms, chairman of the Senate Agricultural Committee. He was introduced to the House and Senate while they were in session.

A dignitaries' luncheon was held in Hogue's honor at the Capital City Club in Columbia, with a number of South Carolina's leading governmental and agricultural officials in attendance. He was interviewed on the State Radio Network while in Columbia.

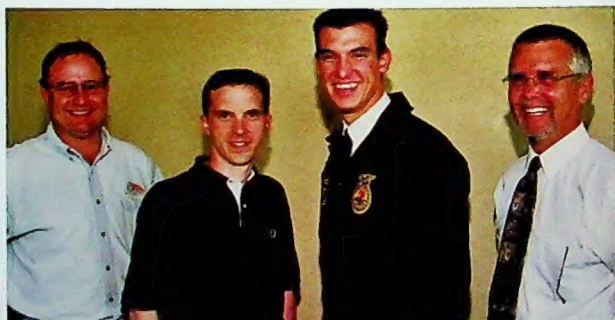
He visited Pelion High School's agricultural education department and toured the Walter P. Rawl and Sons Vegetable Processing Plant. He led a second leadership training session for mid-state FFA chapter officers hosted by the Lexington Technology Center FFA Chapter.

On Thursday, April 21, Hogue toured a Sumter County farm owned and operated by Ricky McDaniel, president of the SC Young Farmer-Agribusiness Association, followed by a golf game at the Sumter National Golf Course. He conducted a third leadership training session for Pee Dee-area FFA chapter officers hosted by the Manning High School FFA Chapter.

On Friday, April 22, the National FFA Vice President visited Loris High School's agricultural education department, followed by a tour of Graham Brothers Tobacco Warehouse, Tyler Tobacco Farm and the SC FFA Center at Cherry Grove.



From left, State FFA Vice President **Jennifer Perkins**, National FFA Vice President **Brian Hogue**, State Representative **Billy Witherspoon**, chairman of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee; State FFA President **Jamie Hughes** and State FFA Vice President **Ethan Sansbury**.



From left, **Charles Wingard**, **Ashley Rawl**, National FFA Vice President **Brian Hogue** and **Frank R. Stover Jr.**, agricultural education teacher at Pelion High School.



Brian Hogue meets with State Representative **Ronald Townsend**, chairman of the House Education and Public Works Committee.



Lexington FFA Chapter members Rebekah Roof and Jacob Powers, National FFA Vice President **Brian Hogue**, FFA members **Ryan Greene**, **Jessica Hook** and **Matt Motes** with **Tommy Harmon**, Lexington FFA Advisor.

South Carolina's Peach Crop Looking Great



Brittany Danielle Applewhite,
Lexington County Peach Queen

South Carolina's peach season is under way. The quality and flavor of the fruit is very good this year, according to Julie Huffman with the S.C. Peach Council.

The season is running about 10 days to two weeks later than usual due to cooler weather in the spring, but there are plenty of peaches available throughout the summer.

South Carolina peaches are tastier because Mother Nature works hand in hand with the growers. Under careful observation, peaches are allowed to ripen naturally on the tree. Combined with hot days, humid nights and slightly acidic soils, South Carolina growers produce the sweetest, juiciest and best-tasting peaches on the market.

In terms of production, South Carolina is the number-one peach state east of the Mississippi River and second in the nation behind California.



Governor Proclaims July as Peach Month

Governor Mark Sanford has proclaimed July as Peach Month in South Carolina in recognition of the importance of the peach industry to the overall economy.

Peach production, a segment of South Carolina's second-largest industry — agriculture — grosses \$40 million annually, and this figure does not reflect the approximately \$30 million spent by the peach industry in related industries such as trucking, equipment maintenance, paper products and marketing.

The South Carolina Peach Council

The S.C. Peach Council is an association of growers, packers and retailers who are dedicated to the advancement of the production and marketing of quality peaches.

Through joint collaboration between the council and local retailers, fund-raising efforts support research and promotion initiatives. Research efforts keep peach producers on the cutting edge of production technology, bringing consumers the highest-quality, best-tasting peach in the marketplace.

(Information for this article provided by the S.C. Peach Council)



Aiken Students Provide Plants to Governor's Mansion

Aiken FFA members Elizabeth Johnson, Lara Boyd, Megan Spivey, Chad Pilgrim and Amanda Bennington, horticulture students at Aiken High School, along with their advisor, Joe Wilson, delivered beautiful Easter lilies and other flowering plants to the Governor's Mansion in late March.

The plants were grown by the students as part of their hands-on training in the horticulture department green-houses. The plants were used to decorate the mansion and to landscape the adjacent grounds.

The group was welcomed by Mary Ann Belser, executive assistant to First Lady Jennie Sanford.

Following the presentation of flowers, the students, along with Joe and Marie Wilson, Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education with Clemson University, and John W. Parris, State Director of Public Affairs with the SC FFA Association, were given a tour of the mansion. They were also served refreshments in the main dining room.

"This is the second year Aiken FFA members have provided



From left, Aiken FFA Chapter members Elizabeth Johnson, Lara Boyd, Megan Spivey and Chad Pilgrim with Joe Wilson, horticulture teacher at Aiken High School; Mary Ann Belser, an official at the Governor's Mansion; and Aiken FFA Chapter member Amanda Bennington.

plants to the mansion," Wilson said. "It is truly an inspiration to know that some of the plants we grew are at the Governor's Mansion during the spring and summer months."

Burdette Receives Governor's Citizenship Award

Michael Burdette, an honor student at Calhoun Falls High School, was named recipient of Governor Mark Sanford's Citizenship Award this spring. The award was presented by the governor during a ceremony at the State Capitol.

Selection criteria for this prestigious honor include outstanding character, leadership, service, responsibility and discipline.

President of the Calhoun Falls FFA Chapter in 2004-2005, Burdette was a member of the 2004 state-winning Envirothon Team that competed in the North American Envirothon and of the Environmental and Natural Resources Team, which competed in the national finals at the National FFA Convention. He was also a member of the State FFA Agricultural Issues Team and participated in the finals at the National FFA Convention.

He is a son of Tony and Kay Burdette of Calhoun Falls. His FFA Advisor is Calvert Sherard, agricultural education teacher at Calhoun Falls High School.



Governor Mark Sanford congratulates Michael Burdette.



Agricultural Educators and FFA Members Provide Flowers to Landscape State House Grounds

Agricultural educators and FFA members from secondary schools throughout South Carolina contributed approximately 400 flats of spring bedding plants to beautify the State House grounds during a ceremony held in Columbia on April 27.

The presentation of flowers is an annual cooperative project of South Carolina's agricultural educators and FFA members. The plants are grown by students in agricultural education department greenhouses as part of their hands-on training in horticulture, greenhouse management or landscape technology.

Participants in the ceremony included M. Pat Black, horticulture teacher at Branchville High School and a member of the SC Agricultural Educators Association Executive Committee, who presided; W. Patrick Earle, agricultural education teacher at McBee High School and President of the SC Agricultural Educators; State Treasurer Grady L. Patterson; Larry Boyleston, an official with the S.C. Department of Agriculture; State FFA Officers Jamie Hughes, Ashley King and Jennifer Perkins; and Dennis Haigler, horticulturalist with the State Budget and Control Board's Division of General Services.

In accepting the plants on behalf of Governor Mark Sanford and other members of the State Budget and Control Board, State Treasurer Grady L. Patterson commended the

agricultural educators and FFA members for their skill in producing the beautiful plants and thoughtfulness in making them available for landscaping the State House grounds. Patterson is a former FFA member from Calhoun Falls and a recipient of the Honorary American FFA Degree.

The event was reported by the Associated Press and Columbia's WLTX-TV and WOLO-TV stations.



From left, State FFA President **Jamie Hughes**, State Treasurer **Grady Patterson**, **Pat Black** and **Pat Earle**.

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Celebrates 70 Years

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is celebrating 70 years of changing the face of South Carolina, from one scarred by erosion and severe flooding to fertile and productive fields and clean, clear streams.

NRCS was created as the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) within the USDA on April 7, 1935 in response to the natural devastation across the American landscape that became known as the Dust Bowl days. The primary mission of the agency then was to conserve soil on agricultural land. The SCS became the NRCS in 1994 to better reflect its expanded role of protecting other natural resources such as water, air, plants and animals on all private and tribal lands.

South Carolina NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas, an FFA alumnus, explained that the anniversary theme, "A Partner in Conservation Since 1935," reflects the agency's mission to provide leadership in a partnership effort to assist private land owners and managers conserve, maintain and improve natural resources and the environment.

NRCS employees work in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Districts, serving all 46 counties through 39 USDA Service Centers. Individuals and communities receive one-on-one technical assistance from a multidisciplinary staff, including soil scientists, engineers, biologists, agronomists and others who work together to ensure the land user receives the latest science-based technology and up-to-date natural resource information available. The agency provides financial assistance to land users to assist in implementing a number of conservation practices. Participation in all NRCS programs is voluntary.

The anniversary celebration will continue throughout 2005. For more information about the USDA NRCS, visit www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov.

(Information for this article was provided by Amy Maxwell, State Public Affairs Specialist, USDA NRCS, Columbia, S.C.)

Nation's First Conservation Plan Developed in South Carolina

The plan was developed in concert with the Upper Savannah Soil and Water Conservation District (Anderson, Oconee and Pickens counties). A primary purpose of the conservation district was to promote the acceptance of conservation technology by farmers. This partnership between the USDA SCS (now NRCS) and conservation districts was successful from the beginning and resulted in a restoration miracle on millions of acres of land in South Carolina. Today, each county is a legally constituted Soil and Water Conservation District with expanded responsibilities beyond conservation of agricultural land.



Walter W. Douglas, left, USDA NRCS State Conservationist, welcomed National FFA Vice President Brian Hogue to South Carolina in April.



This marker, authorized by the S.C. History Commission, was unveiled on January 28, 1963. From left, the late J.R. Nicholson, chairman of the Oconee Conservation District; the late Dr. Joseph B. Douthit, chairman of the Anderson Conservation District; the late Mrs. Ploma Adams, owner of the farm; and the late D.A. Williams, administrator of the USDA SCS, Washington, D.C.



Denver Downs in Anderson County, a conservation showplace and home and farm of longtime State Senator **T. Ed Garrison**, wife **Juanita Garrison** and their family. Senator Garrison, an FFA alumnus, served for many years as a commissioner of the Anderson County Conservation District. He also served as president of the SC Association of Conservation Districts and was named Conservationist of the Year in South Carolina.

A similar photograph of the excellent conservation practices on the Garrison farm was used as a cover for an Upstate telephone directory a few years ago and reached 450,000 homes and businesses.

The Garrisons' son, **Tom**, is chairman of the Anderson Conservation District and a past president of the SC Association of Conservation Districts.



A farmer plowing up and down the slope, which resulted in severe soil erosion. This was prior to the founding of the USDA SCS, now the NRCS.



An example of the condition of much of the rural landscape in South Carolina before the establishment of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, now the NRCS.



NRCS employees have planned and supervised the proper construction of thousands of ponds used for watering livestock, irrigation and fishing. NRCS is known for the successful promotion of ponds, pines and pastures across South Carolina.

Photos courtesy of USDA NRCS

SC FFA Members Attend Agri-Tourism Conference

Twenty-seven FFA members from the Abbeville, Aiken, Central Laurens, McBee, Thurmond and Clemson University chapters attended an Agri-Tourism Conference hosted by the National Heritage Corridor Farmers Association at the National Wild Turkey Federation Headquarters in Edgefield, S.C., May 11. Program topics included marketing, customer service, liability and insurance.

The keynote speaker was Chris Fesko, a nationally known educator, farmer and entrepreneur from Skaneateles, N.Y.

Clemson University Collegiate FFA Officer Blake Berry with Chris Fesko and FFA Officer Darla Simons.



Fesko, who holds a master's degree in science education, gave up the classroom 12 years ago to start her mission of educating the non-farm public about agriculture via videos and her Discovery Center on their 1,500-acre dairy farm. She shared some of her experiences and the "dos" and "don'ts" of agri-education and entertainment.



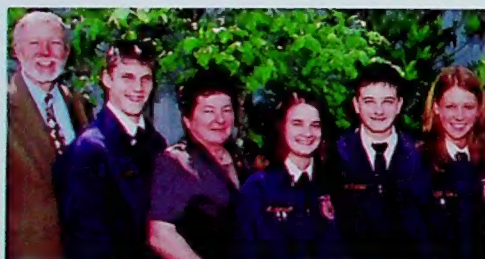
From left, Thurmond FFA Chapter members Sarah Batson and Ashley Doolittle with keynote speaker Chris Fesko and FFA members Russell Henderson, Drew Cheatham and James Morgan.

From left, State FFA President Jamie Hughes with Chris Fesko and State FFA Secretary Josh O'Rear.



From left, Laurens FFA Chapter members Savannah Davis, Crystal Roddy and Kyle Balcombe with Chris Fesko, FFA member Mindy Boyter and FFA Advisor Melanie Birchmore.

From left, Aiken FFA Advisor Joe Wilson, FFA member Chase Cato, Chris Fesko, and FFA members Elizabeth Johnson, Kevin Canalejo and Megan Spivey.



From left, Central FFA Chapter members Dawn Oliver and Cole Sims with Chris Fesko, FFA members Travis King and Travis Johnson, and FFA Advisor Ashli Young.



From left, McBee FFA Chapter members Stephen Tyner and Jacob Earle with Chris Fesko and FFA member Kenneth Howle.



From left, Abbeville FFA Chapter Advisor Fred Raines, FFA members Robby McCaslan, Nikki Thomasson, Tyler Brown and Clay Chihasz with Chris Fesko and FFA member Erin Brock.

State FFA Officers Participate in 'A Taste of South Carolina' Legislative Expo

State FFA Officers Jamie Hughes, Ashley King and Jennifer Perkins participated in the "Taste of South Carolina" Legislative Expo, held on the State House grounds May 4. The event, sponsored by the Palmetto Agriculture and Food Industry Council, was designed to promote South Carolina-produced food products that South Carolinians have available at the marketplace.

It also provided an opportunity to educate the members of the General Assembly on the economic importance of agriculture and food production in South Carolina.

The State FFA Officers had an opportunity to interact with state legislators and agricultural industry representatives while sampling the many and varied food products being served.



State FFA Officers meet with State Senator **John Drummond**, president pro tempore emeritus of the Senate.



From left, State FFA Officers **Ashley King** and **Jennifer Perkins** with Lt. Governor **Andre Bauer** and State FFA President **Jamie Hughes**.



State FFA Officers meet Senator **Larry Grooms**, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.



State FFA Officers meet the Honorable **Rita Allison** of the Governor's Office.



State FFA Officers meet State Representative **Bobby Harrell**, the new speaker of the House of Representatives.



From left, Senator **Ray Cleary**, Senator **Glenn McConnell**, president pro tempore of the State Senate; State FFA Officers and Senator **Greg Ryberg**.

Brown Receives Jack Corn Memorial Scholarship

Tyler Brown, a 2005 graduate of Laurens District 55 High School, was named recipient of the first Jack P. Corn Memorial Scholarship during the Laurens FFA Chapter Awards and Recognition Banquet, held May 14. The presentation was made by Jane C. Corn, wife of the late Mr. Corn.

Mr. Corn, a 1949 graduate of Clemson University, taught agricultural education at Pacolet, Carolina and Laurens high schools for 23 years before becoming director of vocational education and later assistant principal at Laurens.

A Life Member of the National FFA Alumni, Mr. Corn is remembered as one of South Carolina's premier agricultural educators in the 20th century.

Brown, 2004-2005 president of the Laurens FFA Chapter, will enter Greenville Technical College this fall.



Tyler Brown and Jane C. Corn



Jack Corn

Laurens FFA Members Dedicate Harold Calhoun Cheek III Memorial Garden

Laurens District 55 High School FFA members and Advisor Melanie Birchmore began plans to create a memorial garden on the school grounds in memory of fellow FFA member Harold Calhoun "Cal" Cheek III soon after his funeral on July 14, 2004. Cal, as he was affectionately known by his family and friends, died July 12, 2004 after a brief illness. He was a rising senior in high school.



Harold Calhoun
"Cal" Cheek III
Friend and Fellow
FFA Member
1987-2004

The students and agricultural education teacher sought the expertise of a landscape design specialist to assist in determining the site and concept of what has become a special place on the high school grounds. The work was done by FFA members, with supervision and inspiration from Birchmore. They constructed a brick wall around the garden area. Each plant was carefully placed and the area completely mulched.

The Cal Cheek Memorial Garden was dedicated Sunday afternoon, June 26. Those participating in the impressive and inspiring ceremony included Melanie Birchmore, Tyler Brown, Douglas Lawson, Savannah Davis and Cal's mother, Mrs. Sarah Cheek.

The memorial garden is a thoughtful way to perpetuate the memory of an outstanding student, a great FFA member and caring friend. As students and others visit the garden and view the marker, they will know that Cal Cheek's influence continues because he was determined to make a positive difference in the lives of all who knew him.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Calhoun Cheek II.



From left, Harold Calhoun Cheek II, Sarah Cheek, Tyler Brown and Melanie Birchmore.



Snelgrove Awarded Order of the Silver Crescent

Governor Mark Sanford has awarded **Von P. Snelgrove** the coveted Order of the Silver Crescent — the state's highest honor for volunteer and community service.

Snelgrove is a resident of Aiken, S.C., and chief of conservation districts with the SC Department of Natural Resources.

For more than three decades, Snelgrove has been an outstanding public servant. Throughout his distinguished career, he has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism and maintained a clear focus on agricultural and natural resource conservation and management.

In commending Snelgrove, Governor Sanford said, "Your passion and leadership have earned you a reputation as one of the most respected and dedicated conservationists in the country." Snelgrove was also recognized for his service to family, church and the community, including the American Cancer Society, the Hitchcock Foundation and USC-Aiken.

Snelgrove was a member of the Pelion FFA Chapter while in high school. As a result of his outstanding support of the FFA throughout his professional career, he has received the Honorary State FFA Degree and the Honorary American FFA Degree, the highest awards available from the FFA to an individual at the state and national levels. He is a Life Member of the National FFA Alumni.



Starling is Top Salesman in Chevrolet Scholarship Promotion



From left, **Harry Dubose**, Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter advisor; **Tony Starling**; and **Jay Terrell**, area program administrator, Chevrolet Hometown FFA Scholarship Program, Greensboro, N.C.

Myrtle Beach FFA member **Tony Starling** has taken first-place honors in ticket sales in the Chevrolet-sponsored FFA Scholarship Program for two years.

He sold 450 tickets this school year, nearly 100 more than last year. His efforts helped the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter at Carolina Forest High School be the top chapter in ticket sales in South Carolina two years in a row.

Starling was fifth in ticket sales in the nation this year, and the Myrtle Beach FFA Chapter placed 12th in the national program.

Louie Rodriguez, owner of Myrtle Beach Chevrolet, sponsored the local program and plays a major role in the success of the event each year.

Starling will be attending Horry-Georgetown this year on a scholarship from the Chevrolet-FFA Scholarship Program.

Harry Dubose, agricultural education teacher at Carolina Forest High School, is Starling's FFA advisor.

Green Elected to Pendleton Farmers Society



Audie Green of Belton, agricultural education teacher at the Anderson District I & II Career Center in Williamston, has been selected for membership in the prestigious and historic Pendleton Farmers Society.

Green, a graduate of Clemson University with B.S. and M.S. degrees in agricultural education, achieved National Board Certification in 2003. He has taught at the career center since 1991.

The Pendleton Farmers Society, organized in 1815, meets in the Farmers Hall, which was constructed in 1828 on the square in Pendleton. It is the oldest farmers' hall in continuous use in the nation.

It was here that Thomas Green Clemson, a former president of the society, first discussed plans for founding a land grant institution that became a reality and today is Clemson University.

Thurmond FFA Agronomy Team Takes Top Honors



From left, Thurmond FFA team members **Jonathan Holmes, Ashley Doolittle, Natalie Watson and Michelle Miller** with Advisor **Hugh Bland**.

The Strom Thurmond Technology Center Team took first-place honors in the State FFA Agronomy Finals, held at Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter.

Team members are Michele Miller, the high individual scorer in the state competition; Jonathan Holmes, second high scorer; Ashley Doolittle, third high scorer; and Natalie Watson, fifth high individual scorer.

The team and their advisor, Hugh Bland, an agricultural education teacher at the center, were awarded expenses-paid trips to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., scheduled in October, to compete in the National Finals.

York FFA Livestock Team Takes Top State Honors



From left, York FFA team members **Rebecca Keller, Emily Nance, Samuel Hall and Ben Thomson** with Advisor **Frank Sandifer**.

The York FFA Livestock Evaluation Team took first-place honors in the recent State Finals at Clemson University.

Team members Rebecca Keller, Emily Nance, Samuel Hall and Ben Thomson, along with Frank Sandifer, agricultural education teacher at the Floyd D. Johnson Technology Center, were awarded expenses-paid to compete in the National Finals in Louisville, Ky., later this year.

Rebecca Kelly was the high individual scorer, and Ben Thomson was third high scorer in the state competition.

Anderson I & II Career Center FFA Forestry Team First in State Finals



From left, Anderson FFA team members **Zach Haddan, Greg Brewer, Clay Jordan and Chase McCoy** with Advisor **Steve McGaha**.

Anderson School District I & II Career Center FFA members Zach Haddan, Greg Brewer, Clay Jordan and Chase McCoy captured first-place honors in the State FFA-sponsored Forestry competition, held at the Central Carolina Technical College in Sumter. Zach Haddan was the high individual scorer in the overall competition, and Chase McCoy was the second high scorer.

The team and their advisor, Steve McGaha, agricultural education teacher at the center, won expenses-paid trips to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., in October to participate in the National Forestry Finals.

Indian Land Poultry Team Takes Top Honors



From left, Indian Land team members **Stephanie Creech, Kayla Garris, Scott Craton and David Wilson** with Advisor **Jerry Davis**.

The Indian Land High School FFA Poultry Team took first-place honors in the State Finals, held at Clemson University.

Team members Stephanie Creech, second high scorer in the overall event, along with FFA members Kayla Garris, Scott Craton and David Wilson and Advisor Jerry Davis, agricultural education teacher at Indian Land, were awarded expenses-paid trips to the National FFA Convention in Louisville, Ky., scheduled in October, to compete in the National Poultry Evaluation Finals.

Spartanburg Technical College Hosts Horticulture Equipment Fair

Spartanburg Technical College's horticulture department hosted an excellent Horticulture Equipment Fair on April 13 for high school students enrolled in green industry courses. The event, highlighted by a large display of landscape equipment, was held at the horticulture field laboratory area.

Students and teachers from a number of Upstate horticulture education departments, including Golden Strip Career Center, R.D. Anderson Career Center, Swofford Career Center, Union High School, Daniel Morgan Technology Center and Spartanburg Technical College, had an opportunity to observe and study the latest equipment available for use in the green industry. Company representatives demonstrated the equipment and answered questions.

Jimmy Painter, horticulture department head, along with horticulture instructors Doug McAbee and Jason Bagwell at Spartanburg Technical College, coordinated the fair. A delicious luncheon, sponsored by area landscape businesses, was enjoyed by an overflow crowd of excited students and instructors.

For additional information about the horticulture degree program at Spartanburg Technical College, contact Jimmy Painter at PainterJ@stcsc.edu.



A new Holland tractor on display at the fair.



Jimmy Painter, left, head of Spartanburg Technical College's horticulture department, with students **Braxton Butler** and **Ben Baker**.



Former R.D. Anderson Career Center students now enrolled in the horticulture program at Spartanburg Technical College include, from left, **Case Chumley**, **Cale Ledford**, **Shane Williams** and **Kyle Fowler** with **Johnny Bradley**, the center's horticulture instructor.



Horticulture instructor **Doug McAbee**, left, with students majoring in horticulture at Spartanburg Technical College (listed with the high school or career center they attended) are **Homer Green**, Swofford Career Center; **Mike Hardin**, Ridgeview High School; **Braxton Butler**, Daniel Morgan Technology Center; **Jimmy Foster**, Belion-Honea Path and Anderson I & II Career Center; **Cameron Brazell**, Ridgeview High School; **Andy Farr**, Union High School; **Ben Baker**, Daniel Morgan Technology Center; and **Kyle Fowler**, R.D. Anderson Career Center.



Randy Settle, horticulture instructor at Swofford Career Center, with horticulture students in the greenhouse at Spartanburg Technical College.



From left, Golden Strip Career Center students **Justin Coe**, **Kyle Toplovich** and **Fred Glasgow**, Spartanburg Tech horticulture student and Golden Strip graduate **Donald Huff "Beau" Hawthorne**, and Golden Strip students **Russell Nafziger** and **Matthew Plant** with instructor **Barry Burdette**.



Gary Gresham, left, horticulture student at Spartanburg Technical College, with horticulture instructor **Jason Bagwell**. Gresham is a graduate of Blue Ridge High School.



From left, Union High School horticulture students **Matthew Scales**, **John T. Crocker** and **Karmen Kingsmore** with instructor **Cleveland Jackson** and student **Matthew Abee**.

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Farm Bureau Federation,
a non-profit advocacy organization
working to promote agriculture,
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